

Message Text

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46

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

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R 100916Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1915

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CASC, VS

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM SAIGON, MIA MATTERS

1. FOLLOWING INFO WAS GLEANED FROM INTERVIEWS WITH AMERICANS WHO DEPARTED SAIGON ON AUGUST 1. INFOR HAS BEEN REPORTED TO JCRC AND CINCPAC, BUT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN REPEATED TO ADDRESSEES.

2. MIA/POW RELATED RUMORS PERIODICALLY MAKE THE ROUNDS IN SAIGON. OCCASIONAL MENTION OF THIS ISSUE ON VOA OR BBC TENDS TO KEEP THESE RUMORS ALIVE. MOST OF THOSE AMERICANS RETURNED FROM SAIGON FRANKLY ADMIT NO KNOWLEDGE OF IMPORT TO THE MIA SITUATION. THOSE WITH INFO INDICATE THAT IT IS THIRD-HAND AT BEST AND OF QUESTIONABLE VALIDITY. NO ONE HAS YET REPORTED ANY ORGANIZED ATTEMPT BY VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES TO SOLICIT INFO FROM THE POLULACE CONCERNING AMERICAN MIAS.

3. MOST DETAILED RUMORS RPT RUMORS REPORTED THUSFAR INCLUDE:

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A. INFO CAME TO AMERICAN FROM VIETNAMESE FRIEND WHOSE FATHER-IN-LAW IS HIGH "PRG" OFFICIAL. ORIGINAL SOURCE IS REPORTED TO BE 2 NVA WHO RECENTLY CAME SOUTH. RUMOR IS THAT LARGE GROUP (235) OF AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE "DONE IN" LESS THAN THREE WEEKS AGO AT HA TAY, REPORTED AS A NEW PROVINCE TO THE NORTHWEST OF HANOI.

B. SAME VIETNAMESE FRIEND AS ABOVE (WHO USED TO WORK AS A CAMERAMAN FOR FRENCH NEWS MEDIA) REPORTED A CONTACT WITH A FELLOW CAMERAMAN FROM THE NORTH WHOSE JOB IT WAS TO TAKE PHOTOS OF POWS. THIS CAMERAMAN FROM THE NORTH CLAIMS TO POSSESS APPROXIMATELY 20 FRAMES OF FILM WHICH HE TOOK IN FEBRUARY 76 CONTAINING PICURES OF AMERICAN POWS IN THE NORTH. CAMERAMAN REPORTEDLY SPIRITED THESE FRAMES AWAY FOR 5 MONTHS TO FIRST SEE IF THEY WOULD BE MISSED. HIS CONFIDENCE HAVING RETURNED, HE IS NOW READY TO SELL THESE FRAMES FOR A PRICE THRU HIS SOUTH VIETNAMESE FRIEND. ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH THE VALIDITY OF THIS STORY AND THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE PHOTOS WERE INTERRUPTED BY THE AMERICAN'S DEPARTURE FROM VIET-NAM. AMERICAN HAS TURNED THIS PROJECT OVER TO ANOTHER FRIENDLY FOREIGNER STILL IN VIET-NAM FOR FOLLOW UP. AUTHENTICITY OF THIS FILM WILL SUPPOSEDLY BE SIGNALLED BY A CODED TELEGRAM FROM THE FRIENDLY FOREIGNER IN SAIGON TO THE AMERICAN HERE IN BANGKOK.

C. SOURCE OF FOLLOWING INFO IS REPORTEDLY EX-HAMLET CHIEF OF BUNG HAMLET WHO IS UNCLE OF VIETNAMESE FRIEND OF AMERICAN: EIGHT BODIES WERE EXHUMED FROM A COMMON GRAVE NEAR BUNG HAMLET IN VICINITY OF BINH DUONG NORTH OF SAIGON. BODIES REPORTED AS SIX VC AND TWO AMERICANS. EXHUMATION TOOK PLACE APPROXIMATELY APRIL-MAY 1976. REASON FOR EXHUMATION AND HOW THE VC/AMERICAN DETERMINATION WAS MADE COULD NOT BE DETERMINED. SAME SOURCE REPORTED THAT DURING SAME TIME PERIOD, TWO OTHER AMERICAN BODIES WERE DISCOVERED UNDER MONDS OF DIRT IN THE JUNGLE NEAR BEN CAT DISCOVERY MADE BY PERSONS ON WOOD HUNTING EXPEDITION.

4. ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT MIA-RELATED INFO WILL BE REPORTED AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

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WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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